

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Process module for installation in a processing station having a basis controller for performing a predetermined function to a workpiece passing through the processing station, comprising a controller associated with a program control unit into which a program for controlling the process module is supplied wherein the program control unit is provided in the process module or in the basis controller of the processing station, characterized in that the controller includes a program data administrator unit which contains process module specific data which comprises data indicating the location of the program and data indicating whether the program is to be executed in the program control unit of either the process module or the basis controller ~~the location of the program control unit for executing the program~~ and which coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from a program data memory into the program control unit in accordance with the process module specific data contained in the program data administrator unit so that the process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically programmed when the process module is installed in the processing station.

2. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises the program data memory.

3. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises the program control unit.

4. (original) Process module of claim 2, wherein the controller comprises the program control unit.

5. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the program control unit is provided as a microprocessor.

6. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein program data administrator unit comprises a memory unit for storing data specific to the process module.

7. (original) Process module of claim 1, wherein the program data administrator unit can be connected through a bus to the program data memory.

8. (currently amended) Processing station with at least one process module having a basis controller for performing a predetermined function to a workpiece passing through the processing station, where the process module comprises a controller associated with a program control unit into which a program for controlling the process module is supplied wherein the program control unit is provided in the process module or in the basis controller of the processing station and with a bus system for transferring data to the controller of the process module, characterized in that the controller includes a program data administrator unit which contains process module specific data which comprises data indicating the location of the program and data indicating whether the program is to be executed in the program control unit of either the process module or the basis controller ~~the location of the program control unit for executing the program and~~ which co-ordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from a program data memory into the program control unit in accordance with the process module specific data contained in the program data administrator unit so that the

process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically programmed when the process module is installed in the processing station.

9. (original) Processing station of claim 8, wherein a basis controller is provided and wherein the process module comprises an interface for connection to the basis controller.

10. (original) Processing station of claim 9, wherein the basis controller comprises the program control unit.

11. (original) Processing station of claim 8, wherein the program control unit is configured as a microcomputer.

12. (original) Processing station of claim 8, wherein several process modules are provided and wherein the programs associated with the process modules are supplied to the program control unit.

13. (original) Processing station of claim 12, wherein the program control unit comprises several microprocessors, so that the programs associated with the process modules are supplied to run in parallel on the different microprocessors.

14. (previously presented) Processing station of claim 13, wherein at least one of the microprocessors is provided in a controller of the process module.

15. (original) Processing station of claim 8, wherein the basis controller and/or the controller are configured to establish a connection with the program data memory, which lies outside of the processing station.

16. (original) Processing station of claim 15, wherein the connection to the program data memory takes place over the Internet, and wherein the program data memory is provided in a server connected to the Internet.

17. (previously presented) Method for starting up a processing station of claim 8, characterized in that after connection of a process module to the processing station via the interface, the program for controlling the process module is read out of the program data memory depending on the data specific to the process module stored in the program data administrator unit and is transferred to the program control unit.

18. (original) Method of claim 17, wherein the data specific to the process module comprise at least one of the following data: storage location of the program, target location for the transfer of the program and identification data of the process module.

19. (currently amended) Process module for a processing station having a basis controller for performing a predetermined function to a workpiece passing through the processing station, comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied wherein the program control unit is provided in the process module or in the basis controller of the processing station, wherein the controller includes a program data administrator unit which contains process module specific data comprising data indicating the location of the program and data indicating whether the program is to be executed in the program control unit of either the process module or the basis

controller ~~the location of the program control unit for executing the program and which~~ coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from a program data memory into the respective program control unit.

20. (previously presented) Process module of claim 19 wherein the controller further includes said program data memory.

21. (currently amended) Processing station with at least one process module for performing a predetermined function to a workpiece passing through the processing station and a basis controller coupled with said at least one process module, the process module comprising a controller associated with a program control unit to which a program for controlling the process module is supplied wherein the program control unit is provided in the process module or in the basis controller of the processing station, wherein the controller includes a program data administrator unit which contains process module specific which comprises data indicating the location of the program and data indicating whether the program is to be executed in the program control unit of either the process module or the basis controller ~~the location of the program control unit for executing the program and which~~ coordinates the transfer of the program associated with the process module from a program data memory into the respective program control unit.

22. (previously presented) Processing station of claim 21 wherein the controller further includes said program data memory.

23. (currently amended) A processing station comprising one or more process modules for controlling one or more predetermined process functions in a manufacturing operation, said processing station including a basis controller for controlling the operation of

said one or more process modules, and wherein each of said process modules comprises a process controller for controlling the performance of one of said predetermined process functions in accordance with a process control program, said process controller including a program data administrator unit which contains process module specific data indicating the location of the process control program and data indicating whether the program is to be executed in the basis controller or said process controller ~~the location of the program control unit for executing the process control program~~ and which further coordinates the transfer of said process control program from a program data memory into said basis controller and/or said process controller in accordance with the process module specific data contained in the program data administrator unit so that the process module and/or the processing station is/are automatically programmed when said process module is installed in said processing station.

24. (currently amended) Process module for installation in a processing station comprising one or more process modules for controlling one or more predetermined process functions in a manufacturing operation, said processing station including a basis controller for controlling the operation of said one or more process modules, and wherein said process module comprises a process controller for controlling the performance of one of said predetermined process functions in accordance with a process control program, said process controller including a program data administrator unit which contains process module specific data indicating the location of the process control program and data indicating whether the process control program is to be executed in the basis controller or the process controller ~~the location of the program control unit for executing the process control program~~ and which further coordinates the transfer of said process control program from a program data memory into said basis controller and/or said process controller in accordance with the process module specific data contained in the program data administrator unit so that the process module and/or the

processing station is/are automatically programmed when said process module is installed in said processing station.

25. (new) Processing station with at least one process module, the process module having means for performing a predetermined working step on a workpiece passing through the processing station, and a controller associated with a program control unit on which a program for controlling the process module is executed, and a bus system for transmitting data to the controller of the process module, characterized in that the program control unit is provided in the process module and/or the controller, the controller comprising a program data administrator unit provided as a memory in which process module specific data is stored, the data comprising at least one identification identifying the process module, a value indicating the location of the program and a value indicating whether the program is to be executed in the program control unit of either the process module or the basis controller, and the transmission of the program associated with the process module from the program data memory to the program control unit is coordinated dependent on the module specific data.